1

2 .

1 2

3

1

2

3

4

5

6

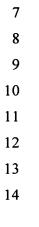


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

`	3
	4
	5
	6 7
	7
	8
	9
	10
	11
D D	12
	13
Ņ	1
ı	2

An automated system that monitors work-in-process ("WIP") in a manufacturing facil	ity
comprising:	

- a software object that determines when an evaluation cycle should be invoked; and a recommendation wakeup listener object that performs the evaluation cycle, the ecommendation wakeup listener object further including:
- a software object that identifies a bottleneck workstation;
- a software object that calculates a WIP value representing the amount of work approaching the bottleneck workstation;
- a software object that determines whether the WIP value is projected to fall below a control limit during an evaluation period; and
- a software object that recommends, if the WIP value is projected to fall below the control limit during the evaluation period, that a selected amount of additional work be released into the manufacturing line.
- 2. The automated system recited in Claim 1, wherein the work approaching the bottleneck workstation comprises one or more product types.
- 3. The automated system recited in Claim1, wherein the additional work comprises one or more product types.
- 4. The automated system recited in Claim 1 further comprises:
- a software object that selects one or more product types for the selected amount of additional work.
- 5. An automated system that controls work-in-process ("WIP") in a manufacturing facility, comprising:
- a software object that determines when an evaluation cycle should be invoked; and a recommendation wakeup listener object that performs the evaluation cycle, the recommendation wakeup listener object further including:
- an object that identifies a plurality of bottleneck workstations;





7

8

9

10

11 12

13

1

2

3

1

f work
cted to
w the
ditional

- 6. The automated system recited in Claim 4, wherein the additional work comprises one or more product types.
- 7. The automated system recited in Claim 4, wherein the work approaching the corresponding bottleneck workstation comprises one or more product types.
- 8. A method of controlling work-in-process ("WIP"), comprising: providing a software object that determines when an evaluation cycle should be invoked; and

providing a recommendation wakeup listener object that performs the evaluation cycle, the providing recommendation wakeup listener object further includes: providing a software object that identifies a bottleneck workstation;

providing a software object that calculates a WIP value representing the amount of work approaching the bottleneck workstation;

providing a software object that determines whether the WIP value is projected to fall below a control limit during an evaluation period; and

providing a software object that recommends, if the WIP value is projected to fall below the control limit during the evaluation period, that a selected amount of additional work be released into the manufacturing line.

- 9. The method recited in Claim 8 further comprises:
- providing a software object to select one or more product types for the selected amount of additional work.
 - 10. The method recited in Claim 8, wherein:

2

3

4

1 2

3

4

5

6

1

2

3

4 5

1

2

3

5

6

7 8



providing a software object to identify a bottleneck workstation further comprises employing à software object to identify one or more of a plurality of

11. The method recited in Claim 8, wherein:

bottleneck workstations.

providing a software object to calculate a WIP value representing the amount of work approaching the bottleneck workstation further comprises employing a software object to calculate a WIP value for each of a plurality of bottleneck workstations, wherein each of the WIP values represents work approaching the corresponding bottleneck workstation.

12. The method recited in Claim 8 wherein:

providing a software object to determine whether the WIP value is projected to fall below a control limit during an exaluation period further comprises employing a software object to determine whether any of a plurality of WIP values is projected to fall below the control limit during the evaluation period.

13. The method recited in Claim 8, wherein:

providing a software object to recommend, if the WIP value is projected to fall below the control limit during the evaluation period, that a selected amount of additional work be selected for the bottleneck workstation further comprises employing a software object to recommend, if the WIP value associated with each of a plurality of bottleneck workstations is projected to fall below the control limit during the evaluation period, that a selected amount of additional work be released into the manufacturing line.

